

REMARKS

In view of the herein-contained remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action.

Initially, Applicants wish to respectfully thank the Examiner for considering Applicants' response of March 16, 2007 to the Examiner's restriction requirement of February 16, 2007, and for withdrawing the restriction requirement and rejoining the claims. Applicants also wish to respectfully thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-25 and 27.

Applicants note the Statement of Reasons for Allowance included in the outstanding Office Action. In this regard, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. In particular, while Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication of allowability, Applicants submit that each of the claims in the present application recite a combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the combination of features recited therein. Accordingly, the reasons for allowance should not be limited to be based upon the features mentioned by the Examiner.

Applicants further wish to respectfully thank the Examiner for acknowledging their claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document upon which the above-noted claim for priority is based, has been received.

The Examiner inadvertently failed to indicate whether the submitted drawings are acceptable. Absent a specific comment from the Examiner, Applicants believe that the drawings filed in the application are acceptable, and respectfully request such an indication from the Examiner in the next official communication.

Applicants further note that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed in the present application on January 18, 2006, in which Applicants brought to the Examiner's attention various disclosure documents. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner confirm consideration of the documents cited in the above-noted Information Disclosure Statement of January 18, 2006 by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form that accompanied the Information Disclosure Statement. In this regard, should the Examiner not have a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement available to him, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned who will provide a duplicate copy of the Information Disclosure Statement together with a mailroom date stamped filing receipt as evidence of the filing of the Information and Disclosure Statement on January 18, 2006.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by KAMOI et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0183473). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicants' claim 26 recites "only said switching device of said power factor improving power converter operates at a high frequency rate when said lamp is operating in a lighting state." In contrast to the features recited in Applicants' claim 26, KAMOI et al. is directed to an electronic ballast for a high intensity discharge lamp that is capable of dimming the lamp, and does not discuss inverter 40 (paragraph [0034] of KAMOI et al.) during the lighting state. In this regard, paragraph [0034] of KAMOI et al. indicates that switches 41 and 44 are turned on and off at a low frequency in an alternating fashion with switches 42 and 43, which are also turned on and off at the low frequency, but that in a modification, switches 41 to 44 may be controlled in such a manner that one switch of each pair is driven at a high frequency while the other switch is turned on at a low frequency. However, neither this portion of the KAMOI et al. disclosure, nor

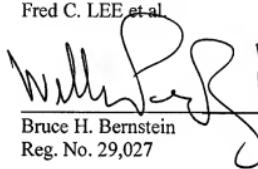
any part thereof, indicates that by operating a pair of switches of switches 41 to 44 at a high frequency will improve the power factor, but merely indicates that a pair of switches operating at a high frequency can be utilized as an alternative to switch 31 of buck converter 30. Thus, KAMOI et al. does not disclose that "the switching device of the power factor improving converter operates at a high frequency rate when the lamp is operating in a lighting state."

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that KAMOI et al. does not render unpatentable the invention recited in Applicants' claim 26, and thus, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection and allow claim 26. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection together with an indication of the allowability of claim 26, in due course.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
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